

Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner rejected the independent claims of this application -- claims 1, 11, and 14 -- as anticipated by US5,577,807 to Hodge.

Claims 1 and 11 recite a “main frame having a stop extending therefrom; a back bracket ...having an arm extending therefrom such that downward tilting of said back bracket is limited by interaction of said back bracket arm with said stop”.

In Hodge, “FIGS. 19-21 illustrate the adjustable back stop subassembly ... The adjustable back stop subassembly portion 104 ... includes a housing 250... Housing 250 includes... a central stop bore 258... Housing 250 is adapted to be supported by seat lock plates 270... As the seat tilt is adjusted, housing 250 will also be adjusted relative to the chair base. (Column 7, line 55 to column 8, line 13.) “A stop 320 is disposed within stop bore 258.” (Column 8, line 34.) “[A] a stop bracket 346 is ... attached to crosspiece 42 of the back support subassembly. The back of the chair will tilt, therefore, until stop 346 engages stop 320 of the adjustable back stop subassembly.” (Column 8, lines 52 to 57.)

Thus, in Hodge, the tilt of the back bracket is limited by interaction with a stop extending from the seat plate. In contrast, in claims 1 and 11, the tilt of the back bracket is limited by interaction with a stop extending from the main frame. It is therefore submitted that claims 1 and 11 patentably define over Hodge.

Claim 14 recites “said back bracket terminating at a nose extending sufficiently forwardly of said main frame pivot that, at least when said back bracket is tilted downwardly past a pre-determined point, said nose further limits forward tilting of said seat plate”.

In Hodge, with reference to figure 2, “[a] torsional energy storage device or spring subassembly 46 mounts members 32, 34 at their forward ends to housing 36. Torsional energy storage device 46 includes ... axle portions 56... The outer ends of the axle portions 56 are

received in apertures 60 defined by the forward portions of the upright members 32, 34.”
(Column 5, lines 28 to 38.) With reference to figure 1 along with figure 2, “[t]he seat
subassembly 14 may be pivoted at a forward end thereof about axle portions 56 of device 46”.
(Column 5, lines 47 to 48.)

Thus, it will be apparent that Hodge lacks the claimed nose of claim 14.

On the basis that the independent claims define over Hodge, the remaining claims which
depend from one of these independent claims also define over Hodge.

In view of the foregoing, early favourable consideration of this application is earnestly
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 29, 2004